Signing of extradition treaties by India

*479. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Extradition Act came into force in 1962, but India has so far entered into only seven formal treaties with foreign countries for extradition and if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for not entering into such treaties with other countries like Hong-Kong, Dubai which are favourite boltholes; and

(c) whether there is any proposal for entering into extradition treaties with other countries also; if so, the details thereof and by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes Sir, on having received the assent of the President on 15th September, 1962, the Indian Extradition Act came into force on 5th January 1963. India has extradition treaties with Canada, U.K., Netherlands, Belgium, Nepal, Bhutan, Switzerland and U.S.A., which are currently operative. Apart from treaties, India also has extradition arrangements with Tanzania, Australia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Thailand, Germany and Sweden, by extending the application of the Indian Extradition Act, 1962 to these countries.

(b) and (c) Proposals for entering into extradition treaties with Hong Kong, Germany, France, Spain, Thailand, Oman, Romania and Bulgaria are under consideration. Extradition treaties with U.S.A. (New treaty) and Russian Federation have been finalised and are under process for signing. Treaties with U.A.E. and Hong Kong have also been finalised and may be signed in the near future depending on the convenience of the other party.

Satellite-Based Gramsat Network

*480. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the salient features of the satellite-based GRAMSAT (G-SAT) network proposed to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): Indian Space Research Organisation is working of the concept of a Gramsat Satellite Network which could provide communications support for integrated rural development.

Gramsat will be a network providing area specific communications support to rural development activities such as water shed development, health, hygiene, women and child development including training of primary teacher, Panchyati Raj elected memebers, Anganwadi workers, farmers and village level health workers. Gramsat network will use the transponders available on the Indian Satellite like INSAT.

The concerned Ministries/Departments at the Centre and the State level as well as district level administration will be associated with the evolution of the system.

Exploration for Nuclear Minerals

3494. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of exploration work for minerals used for nuclear energy and the State which are the source for these minerals;

(b) what other nuclear minerals apart from Uranium and Thorium, are being explored;

(c) what is our progress in developing and utilising Nuclear fuels in Power Plants; and

(d) what are the constraints in exploration of such minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Exploration work for uranium and thorium, the minerals used/likely to be used for nuclear energy, has been carried out by the Atomic Minerals Division (AMD) of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in almost all the states of the country. Further exploration is being carried out to locate additional deposits of high grade uranium for future requirements. The States where uranium has been located are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, while thorium has been located in Kerala, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

(b) The other atomic minerals being explored by the AMD are those containing Beryllium, Columbium-Tantalum, Lithium, Zirconium and Titanium.

(c) DAE has been able to master the complete fuel cycle beginning with mining the ore, fabricating the fuel rods and safely disposing of the nuclear waste. Reprocessing the waste to obtain plutonium, which is also a nuclear fuel, has also been successfully done by the Department. By converting thorium to U-233 in nuclear reactors, it would be possible to use it also as a fuel in future.

(d) Though there are no severe constraints, sometimes the areas in which there may be promising deposits fall in difficult terrain. Some of these areas also may be under reserve forests or National Park for preseving flora and fauna and hence prove difficult to carry out exploration as it may disturb wildlife habitats or cause damage to the flora or infringe on forest conservation laws.

Kaiga Atomic Power Station

3495. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total expenditure incurred on Kaiga Atomic Power Station till 31st March, 1997;

(b) by when the project was originally scheduled to be completed and its estimated cost;

(c) by when the project is now likely to be completed and what would be estimated cost of project at the time of completion; and

(d) what are the main reasons for such a long delay and who is responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY(SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Total expenditure incurred on Kaiga Atomic Power Project till 31st March, 1997 is Rs. 1745.47 crore (provisional).

(b) The Project was originally scheduled to be completed by December, 1995 at an estimated cost (sanctioned in 1987) of Rs. 730.72 crore (without interest during construction) to be fully funded by Government from budgetary sources.

(c) Kaiga-2 and Kaiga-1 are likely to be completed by May, 1998 and Novemebr, 1998 respectively. Revised sanctioned cost of the Project is Rs. 2275 crore which includes Rs. 685 crore Interest During Construction with debt/equity ratio of 2:1.

(d) There was an initial delay of about one year in the commencement of work of concreting, after completion of site excavation work on schedule, due to revision of guidelines and design review of all buildings and structures by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. Partial delamination of the undersurface of the inner containment dome of Kaiga Unit-1